

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/025,133 filed February 17, 1998 ("the '133 Application"). Claims 1-51 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 52-62 have been added. Claims 52, 55, 58, 61, and 62 are in independent form.

Applicants respectfully requests favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present divisional application.

CLAIM TO PRIORITY

Applicants claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon Japanese Patent Applications Nos. 9-030982, 9-127644, and 9-127652, filed February 14, 1997, May 16, 1997 , and May 16, 1997, respectively, and respectfully request acknowledgment of this claim and of receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents, which were filed on filed April 29, 1998, in the '133 Application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>
09/025,129	February 17, 1998	2181
09/024,185	February 17, 1998	2731
09/022,976	February 12, 1998	2624

The information listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form, and the above-listed U.S. Applications, were cited in the '133 Application. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the files of the United States Patent and Trademark Office for review of those documents. (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and MPEP § 609.)


Please note that the following U.S. patent applications were pending at the time the Information Disclosure Statements were submitted in the parent application, and have since issued as U.S. patents, as follows: Application No. 09/053,747 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,018,816, Application No. 09/024,160 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,334,161, Application No. 09/025,128 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,425,019, and Application No. 08/951,108 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,559,962. Since the filing date of this divisional application is after June 30, 2003, Applicants have not enclosed copies of these patents. Applicants will provide copies upon request.

The Examiner is requested to indicate that the listed information has been considered by initially the appropriate portions of the enclosed PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of same to Applicants' attorneys of record.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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